

# Congo volcano threat deepens

As thousands flee the red-hot lava pouring from Nyiragongo volcano through the city of Goma and into Lake Kivu, geologists fear that debris from the volcano could cause the lake to turn acidic and release a toxic cloud endangering the entire area

## Nyiragongo volcano (3,469m)

Goma  
Lava flow cuts town in two

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OF CONGO

RWANDA

Gisenyi

Lava only  
4km away.

Over 300,000  
people have  
fled from  
Congo

Lake Kivu is one  
of three lakes in the  
world known to contain  
high concentrations of  
dissolved gas in their  
deepest waters

2. Lava flow entering lake causes  
carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane  
to bubble up to surface – suffocating,  
flammable cloud engulfs area

CO<sub>2</sub> normally makes up 0.03% of air –  
concentrations of more than 10% can be fatal

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## Potential disaster

Mount Nyiragongo

Crater

1. Lava  
reaches  
Lake Kivu

Goma

Sources:  
USGS, UN

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